



Region 6 Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

March 2007

Volume 2, Number 3

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Disaster Medicine & Public Health Preparedness Journal

The events of recent years have made it clear that healthcare professionals of all disciplines and specialties have an obligation to contribute to the health of their communities and the health security of our nation. To support the integration of clinical medicine with public

health preparedness and to provide individual healthcare providers with a resource to support their public health activities, the American Medical Association (AMA), in collaboration with Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, A Wolters Kluwer Health business, will publish *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. This journal will strive to be the leading peer-reviewed scientific journal for health care providers involved in public health preparedness and disaster response.

Dr. Lewis Robinson, Disaster Medicine Director for Public Health – Seattle and King County has been selected as an Associate Editor for the newly created journal. **Congratulations Dr. Robinson!** The journal seeks articles relevant to disaster medicine and public health preparedness from experts worldwide. More information can be found at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/-1/disaster-medicine.pdf>

New Orleans Feels Pain of Mental Health Crisis

USA Today reported on January 16, 2007 that 16 months after Hurricane Katrina the city is still dealing with a “hidden sort of damage”. Local officials see it in reports of suicides, strokes and stress-related deaths. The suicide rate rose almost 300% over pre-storm levels, and a reported 26% of respondents to a CDC survey said at least one person in their family needed mental health counseling, but less than 2% were getting any help. The city has virtually no capability to respond. Only 22 of the 196 practicing psychiatrists have returned to the city since the storm and only a few dozen hospital beds remain available for inpatient psychiatric services, down from more than 300 before Katrina. Measuring the demand for mental health services is difficult, few records are kept. Only 20% of the city health department's staff has returned and most are focused on restoring day-to-day services. A Psychiatry Professor from LSU reports that even without numbers, mental health workers say they know there's a crisis. The full report can be found at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-01-15-katrina-mental-health_x.htm

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Disaster Psychiatry: How to Cope

The American Psychiatric Association has developed a Disaster Psychiatry webpage. The Page was developed by the APA Committee on Psychiatric Dimensions of Disaster to provide information useful to psychiatrists in preparing for and responding to disasters and other traumatic events. It features several publications on disaster psychiatry as well as recommendations for broader involvement of psychiatrists in disaster work developed during conferences sponsored by the Emergency Services and Disaster Relief Branch, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the American Psychiatric Foundation. The site can be found at:

www.psych.org/disasterpsych/links/weblink.cfm



NIMS Compliance

It's that time again! The Washington State Electronic NIMS Progress Report needs to be completed twice this year in order to continue to be eligible for Federal Preparedness Funding. The first report must be completed by April 30, 2007 and the second must be completed by September 30, 2007. ALL HOSPITALS MUST COMPLETE THIS REPORT INDIVIDUALLY.

The NIMS Reporting Tool can be found on the Washington State EMD website at www.emd.wa.gov. Click on the tab titled "Submit NIMS Report". A summary of questions will be sent to all hospital emergency managers. Please check with your hospital emergency manager before submitting to avoid duplication.

All questions in bold are deemed critical for NIMS compliance. You can anticipate non-bold questions to be linked to compliance in future years. Please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org or (206) 947-5565 with any questions.

Future training dates for Region 6 ICS 300 and 400 courses are on the way – stay tuned!

Family Readiness Kit - Preparing to Handle Disasters

The American Academy of Pediatrics has created a Family Readiness Kit for parents to use at home to help prepare for most kinds of disasters. The kit was developed after talking with 250 families. The ideas they shared were used to make a set of materials which reflect the needs of most families. Even though all families are unique, this information helps most understand the basic information about preparing for a disaster. Please use this information to help prepare your own family.

The kit can be downloaded at: <http://www.aap.org/family/frk/frkit.htm>



Upcoming Meetings:

- Healthcare Coalition Coordinating Team Meeting: March 7, 2007 1PM to 2:30PM
- Healthcare Coalition Executive Council Meeting: March 7, 2007 3PM to 5PM
- Hospital Strategy Group: March 8, 2007 7:30AM to 10AM
- Healthcare Coalition Legal Workgroup: March 16, 2007 10AM to 12PM
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee: March 22, 2007, 7:30AM to 10AM
- Hospital Evacuation Workshops March 27 to 29, 2007
- RMRC Software Demonstrations: April 3 to 5, 2007



KING COUNTY
Healthcare
Coalition

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

The King County Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to strengthening the healthcare system for emergencies. The following workgroups currently meet as part of the King County Healthcare Coalition to address preparedness issues in the healthcare community.

Committee/Workgroup	Staff
Healthcare Coalition Development	Cynthia Dold, 206-205-0456 Cynthia.dold@metrokc.gov
Healthcare Coalition Administrative Assistant	Lydia Ortega, 206-296-5079 Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov
Ambulatory Care Committee	Aimee Welch, 206-205-4145 aimee.welch@metrokc.gov
Critical Care Workgroup Alternate Care Facilities	Lewis Robinson, MD, 206-205-5091 lewis.rubinson@metrokc.gov
Hospital Emergency Prep Committee	Danica Mann, 206-947-5565 Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org
Infectious Disease Workgroup Medical Director's Committee	Jeff Duchin, MD, Jeff.duchin@metrokc.gov
Legal Workgroup	Amy Eiden, 206-206-8969 amy.eiden@metrokc.gov
Puget Sound Call Center Coordination	Joe Cropley, 206-517-2383 cropley@wapc.org
Regional Medical Resource Center	Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213 aschletz@u.washington.edu

King County Healthcare Coalition Workgroup and Committee Updates

Outlined below are current updates for some of the King County Healthcare Coalition committees and workgroups. Please consult the Healthcare Coalition website for additional background. The Healthcare Coalition meeting calendar for 2007 is also available on the website:

www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/index.htm

Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

- The workgroup has completed its Contingency Plans for the Ambulatory Care Response to Pandemic Influenza
www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/ambulatory/index.htm
- The group is working to develop emergency communications protocol and to supply technical assistance to providers.
- Aimee will work closely with the Regional Medical Resource Center to identify critical resources and infrastructure for ambulatory care providers.

Critical Care Work Group

- Limited critical care surge capacity in the region continues to be a major concern for adequate medical response to a number of plausible disaster events. A task force is being assembled to develop draft recommendations for standardized critical care surge capacity for King County Healthcare Coalition hospitals.



- Based on the work of several national panels, the task force will address emergency modifications in scope of critical care, staffing, and treatment locations to optimize the response to mass casualty critical care events.
- The task force is still recruiting critical care nurses who hold supervisory positions within their institution. If interested in participating, please contact Lewis Robinson at Lewis.Robinson@metrokc.gov for additional information.
- In addition, a second task force is being assembled by Dr. Mark Tonelli to provide recommendations for triage and critical care resource allocations for use when critical care surge capacity processes are insufficient to meet need. There will be a number of future opportunities for public and healthcare worker input on the task forces' recommendations.

Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

- NIMS Compliance Reporting will begin this month. All hospitals must submit a report in order to continue to receive federal preparedness funding. Reports must be submitted by April 30, 2007 to the State.
- The hospitals will be participating in Evacuation workshops March 27, 28 and 29, 2007. These 1-day workshops will be held in each emergency response zone. Emergency Managers, Fire partners, and Assisted Living Facilities are invited to participate.
- The hospitals will begin looking at regional pandemic influenza strategies this month and will continue work on the transportation section of the regional plan.
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Exercise - May 30, 2007. All hospitals in King County/Region 6 will be participating in an evacuation exercise in May based on an earthquake scenario. For more information on this exercise please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org



Legal Work Group

- The workgroup is documenting state laws that could affect deployment of personnel during an emergency, including laws that provide certain protections for volunteers during an emergency and laws about licensing of health care professionals.
- The group also is tracking a bill in the state legislature that addresses immunity for volunteers during an emergency. The bill is **SB 5054 / HB 1073**.

Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

- The first round of TSP applications will be submitted at the end of February and includes 10 health systems and almost 500 circuits. The second round of applications will be submitted in July 2007.
- Proposals for the health system incident management software were due Friday, February 23rd. The selection committee has received copies of the proposals and demos will be scheduled for early April.
- Work continues on the Operational Plan for the King County Regional Medical Resource Center.

Alternate Facilities Project

- Planning efforts continue regarding alternate care facilities (ACF) which may be used during emergencies and disasters. These facilities may provide shelter for patients with chronic medical needs who cannot be at home or at long-term care facilities due to the emergency and whose medical needs are too resource-intensive to be safely cared for in traditional Red Cross shelters. In addition, during some disasters, ACFs may provide urgent care, prescription



renewal services, and sustained, non-complex care for patients transitioning from traditional inpatient wards.

- Dr. Andy Stergachis, Lewis Robinson, and Dean Webb are assembling a task force to develop the formulary for ACFs as well as to consider the ACF interface with retail and wholesale pharmacies. In the near future, Dr. Robinson will be convening a task force to develop the planning for the urgent care functions of ACFs.

King County Call Center Project

- Joe Recently met with the Call Center Managers of the Denver Health Operation. The meeting produced many ideas that will be shared with the Coalition in regards to software and connectivity.
- The Crisis Clinic and 211 managers met with Joe regarding capacity and call rollover to other 211 centers in the state. The Crisis Clinic, 211, and the Poison Center will be taking simulated rollover calls from the Public Health hotline during the regional Pan Flu exercise on March 20th.

Training Opportunities

Note: The following list of available training opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each training.

Evacuation Workshops*

March 27, 2007 (Zone 1 – Overlake Hospital)

March 28, 2007 (Zone 5 – Childrens Hospital)

March 29, 2007 (Zone 3 – Criminal Justice Training Commission)

Presented by: Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

Cost: No Cost

To Register: Hospitals are registering by teams; please contact your hospital emergency manager for more information. Other organizations may send a representative to the workshop. Please contact Danica Mann at 206-947-5565 or Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org for more information or Lydia Ortega at Lydia.ortega@metrokcgov to register.

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)*

April 26 & 27, 2007

Attendees learn how to properly implement HICS into their facility while incorporating critical elements of NIMS. All program content will be presented to "train the trainer".

Presented by: American Society for Healthcare Engineering of the American Hospital Association

Location: Portland, OR

Cost: Starts at \$625

To Register: Visit <https://register.rcsreg.com/regos-1.0/hics2007/ga/index2.html>

ERTI Decontamination Train the Trainer*

May 16-18, 2007 & August 28-30, 2007

Presented by: WSHA

Cost: No Cost

To Register: Contact Peggi Shapiro at peggis@wsa.org

As in past years, there are also four-hour "refresher" training opportunities available, as agreed to between ERTI and the hospital facility. Examples include: decontamination system set-up/take-down, PPE donning/doffing, WMD information, or site management walk-through. These are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your request in as soon as possible. Contact Chris Orkiolla c.orkiolla@erti.org or Roger Bianchi r.bianchi@erti.org to arrange.

Legend:

* Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through HRSA funding

** Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through Homeland Security funding.

For questions regarding the reimbursement processes, please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org



Upcoming Conferences

Note: The following list of available conference opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each conference.

NDMS – National Disaster Medical System*

March 17 – 21, 2007

Sponsored by: National Disaster Medical System

Location: Nashville, Tennessee

Cost: Unknown

To Register or For More Information: <http://www.ndms.chepinc.org/>

2007 Communications Academy

March 31 to April 1, 2007

Sponsored by: Non-profit coalition of volunteer communications teams

Location: Seattle Pacific University

Cost: Starts at \$10

To Register: Visit www.CommAcademy.org or call (206) 524-6567

For More Information: www.CommAcademy.org

Partners in Emergency Preparedness *

April 10-11, 2007

Location: Tacoma Convention Center

Cost: Starts at \$225

To Register: Visit <https://capps.wsu.edu/registration/emergencyprep/>

For More Information, please call 800-942-4978 or visit:

<http://capps.wsu.edu/emergencyprep>

Surge Capacity Planning for Hospitals *

April 18-20, 2007

Location: Radisson Hotel and Suites, Chicago IL

Cost: Starts at \$895

To Register: Call 800-647-7600 or 781-939-2438

For more information, visit www.worldrg.com

What's New in Medicine 2007? Medicine – Infectious Disease Continuing Medical Education Conference

June 8 & 9, 2007

Location: Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick WA

Cost: Starts at \$40

To Register: Contact Marlene Chua at jmchua@verizon.net or call

(509) 547-9737 x225

Washington State Fire Chiefs HazMat and Special Operations Conference* – SAVE THE DATE

June 18-21, 2007

Location: Wenatchee, WA

A special healthcare track will be offered on the 18th and 19th, including a regional panel on hospital disaster readiness "best Practices", HICS presentation, and internationally recognized Dr's Igor Shafhid and Pinhas Halpern.

For More Information: Contact Peggi Shapiro at WSHA at

peggis@wsa.org

Tribal Emergency Preparedness Conference

August 9-10, 2007 **Please note new date and location**

Location: Red Lion Hotel – Jantzen Beach, Portland OR

Cost: No cost

For More Information: Contact Ticey Casey at tcasey@npaihb.org

Upcoming Exercises

Pandemic Flu Emergency Response Coordination (PERC) Exercise – March 20, 2007

The goal of this exercise is to promote preparedness and coordination of response between jurisdictions, business partners, and community agencies in a long term wide spread pandemic influenza event. More information and details will be available in the next few weeks. For information please email ECC.KC@metrokc.gov.

Cascade Foothills, Functional Exercise – May 30, 2007

This exercise has been postponed due to the recent flooding, snow storm and windstorm. Sponsored by Zone 1 Emergency Management. Zone 1 will activate its Zone Coordination Center (ZCC) in response to a simulated earthquake. Coordination among EOCs will be the primary objective of the exercise. For more information contact Mike Ryan, Zone 1 Emergency Planner at MRyan@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Exercise – May 30, 2007

All hospitals in King County/Region 6 will be participating in an evacuation exercise in May based on an earthquake, with evacuation as the primary focus. Region 6 hospitals will use the exercise to fulfill the HRSA grant exercise requirement. For more information on this exercise please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org

TOPOFF4 – Portland OR

TopOff (Top Officials) is a congressionally mandated counterterrorism program, and exercises are held every two years. The TopOff 4 exercise will be held in Portland, Ore., and Guam in 2007 and follows a preliminary exercise held in June last year called TopOff 4 Command Post Exercise which involved more than 4,000 people from more than 85 federal, state, local and private industry organizations. That exercise for the first time also included Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to test the coordination capabilities of the various participants. The lessons learned from that event will be carried through into this year's exercise. Like its predecessors, the fourth Top Officials exercise is intended to test the nation's readiness to deal with a large-scale terrorist attacks. This time, the exercise will test the department's public communications strategy.

Windstorm 2006 – After Action Report

The Healthcare Coalition After Action Report is available in draft form. All information provided in the ESF-8 debrief on January 19, 2007 has been included as well as an improvement plan matrix for regional issues. The final draft has been sent to Healthcare Coalition constituents for review. Contact Danica Mann at (206) 947-5565 or Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org with any questions.



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This publication will be sent monthly via email. Please feel free to share resources through this newsletter. To subscribe or to submit information to share, please contact Lydia Ortega at Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov
Thank you!

